Numismatic Guaranty Corporation

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NGC News

New NGC Label for 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Coins

Submit your 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins for the exclusive NGC label — the only label authorized to carry the National Baseball Hall of Fame logo! ***Note: this label is no longer available.***

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CrossOver Policy Modified to Accept Coins Graded 70

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NGC Grading On-site at Whitman Expo

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Submit Your Coins and Notes at the Hong Kong Coin Show

NGC, NCS and PMG will be accepting submissions at the Hong Kong Coin Show April 4–6.

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Submit Your 2014 American Eagle 1-Ounce Platinum Bullion Coins

For the first time since 2008, the US Mint has released a Mint State one-ounce platinum Eagle. Submit your 2014 Eagles to NGC for grading and encapsulation.

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NGC Introduction to Grading Class at Central States

NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Central States Convention. The class will be hosted on April 26, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Register today!

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Counterfeit Detection: 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo Nickel

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USA Coin Album: More Scrapbook Gold
Several months ago, I combed through the series of scrapbooks I've been assembling for the past 30+ years to find forgotten gems of numismatic ephemera. I'm revisiting those scrapbooks this month to find even more numismatic nuggets.
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Chinese Coins: The Panda Maker
By Peter Anthony
Peter Anthony discusses designing the Chinese Panda coins with artist Rocky Zhao.
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Conservation Showcase: South Africa 1959 1 Shilling Proof
Conservation work revealed surfaces with little damage in spite of built-up residue.
Read this article...

From the NGC Archives: 1807 Draped Bust Dime
1807 marked the final year of production for Robert Scot's Draped Bust Dime. In fact, this Liberty portrait was retired for all denominations that year, with the exception of the lowly half-cent.
Read this article...

Catalog Available for Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction
The 56th Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction includes Far Eastern coins, world coins, medals and bank notes.
Read this article...

Stack's Bowers Unveils Great American Coin Hoard
The collection of more than 1 million coins will be an ongoing part of upcoming Stack's Bowers Galleries auctions. Initial estimates value the coins at $15–20 million.
Read this article...

Save $50 per Session at ANA Summer Seminar
By ANA
The 46th annual educational event features a new schedule and the return of Denver Mint tours. Plus, save $50 per session when you register and pay by March 31!
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New NGC Label for 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame Coins

Posted on 3/18/2014

Submit your 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins for the exclusive NGC label — the only label authorized to carry the National Baseball Hall of Fame logo! ***Note: this label is no longer available.***

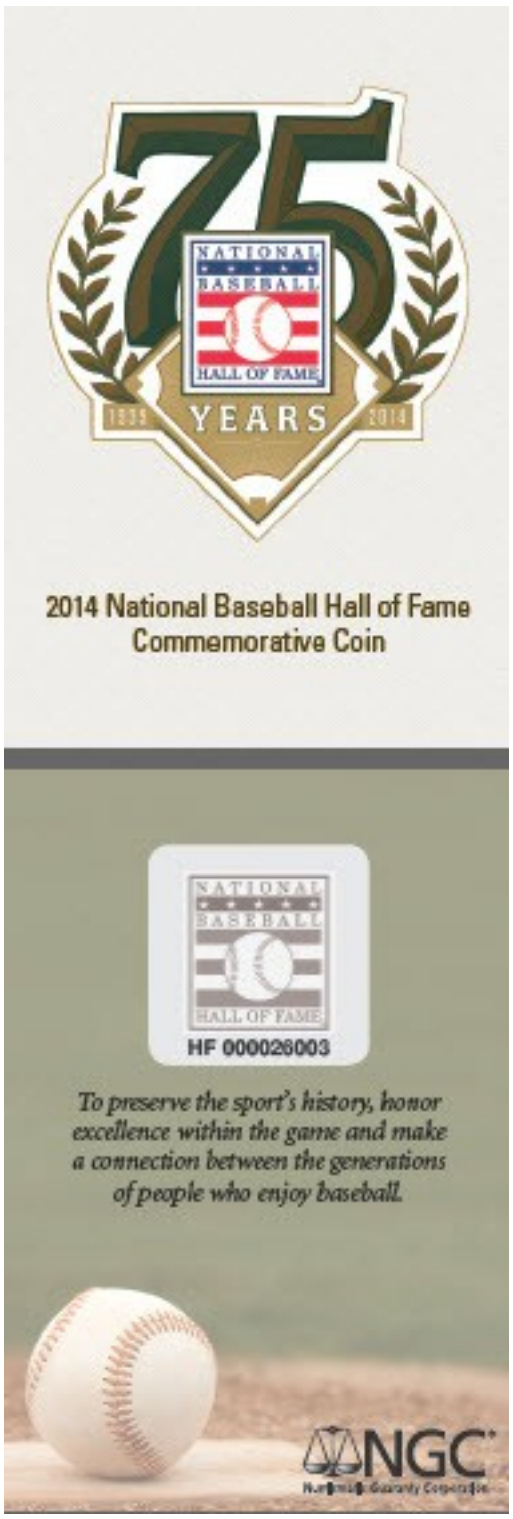
Baltimore Show Update: The US Mint will be releasing a limited number of Baseball Hall of Fame coins at the Whitman Baltimore show on March 27. Hall of Fame coins submitted to NGC at the Whitman show will receive NGC's exclusive Hall of Fame logo label and the special pedigree **OPENING DAY RELEASES**. Coins will not be accepted for the Early Releases and First Releases designations at this show.

NGC Baseball Hall of Fame Fantasy Team Set (Available from select retailers): Learn more >

NGC is offering a special label for the 2014 National Baseball Hall of Fame commemorative coins, scheduled to go on sale on March 27. All three coins (50 cent clad, $1 silver and $5 gold) are eligible. This special NGC label, featuring the National Baseball Hall of Fame logo, will enhance the presentation of these commemorative coins. NGC is the only grading company authorized to use the Hall of Fame logo, making this label even more desirable. A portion of the grading fee benefits the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

Click image to enlarge.

Each coin submitted will receive a card with the National Baseball Hall of Fame 75th Anniversary logo. The reverse features a Baseball Hall of Fame hologram with a unique serial number.



Hall of Fame coins must be submitted under “Early Bird” or a higher tier.

Submission Instructions:

- Select **Early Bird** or a higher tier.
- All Associate or higher level NGC Collectors Society members and NGC Authorized Dealers may submit coins.
- **Hall of Fame coins MUST be on their own submission invoice. The coins cannot be mixed with other coins to qualify for the Hall of Fame label.**
- The default label will be the Hall of Fame logo label pictured above.
  To request the blue Early Releases label (pictured below), write "Blue Early Releases Label" on the submission form.

- Coins may not be submitted under the Modern or Modern Special tiers.

The dates these coins are eligible for NGC Early and First Releases® designations, are posted here.

Dealers and Elite Collectors Society members should contact Scott Heller at NGC for bulk submissions.

Questions? Contact NGC Customer Service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (1-800-642-2646).

Collectors Society paid members can submit their coins directly to NGC. Not an NGC Collectors Society member? Paid memberships start at just $39/year. Join as a Premium member, or upgrade to Premium membership, and you'll receive a coupon to have five coins graded for free. Join today.

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CrossOver Policy Modified to Accept Coins Graded 70

Posted on 3/17/2014

NGC has expanded its popular CrossOver service to include MS 70, PF 70 and SP 70 coins.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation® (NGC®), the world's largest third-party coin grading and authentication service, has announced that it will now accept CrossOver submissions of coins graded MS 70, PF 70 and SP 70.

NGC's CrossOver service allows PCGS-certified coins to be submitted to NGC for grading without removing them from the holders. If NGC assigns the same or higher grade, the coins will be carefully removed from the PCGS holder and encapsulated by NGC. Previously, only coins graded 69 and below were eligible for NGC's CrossOver service.

The policy change, which is effective immediately, is in response to feedback from collectors who desire to complete sets of NGC-certified modern coins in the ultimate grades of NGC MS 70 or NGC PF 70 Ultra Cameo. Many collectors display their sets on the free, online NGC Registry, which is the largest of its kind at nearly 85,000 sets—a significant percentage of which are modern coins.

"As more collectors, particularly those who participate in the online NGC Registry, build sets of NGC-certified modern coins, we have witnessed growing demand for NGC to allow CrossOvers of coins graded 70 by PCGS," says Mark Salzberg, NGC Chairman. "By updating our CrossOver policy we now present collectors and dealers with a risk-free opportunity to submit their PCGS-graded modern coins to NGC."

NGC will extend its CrossOver special to allow submissions of all PCGS-certified US and world coins for CrossOver and charging only a modest $5 handling fee if the coin does not meet NGC's strict grading standards.

“NGC has long been the leader in modern coin certification because of our accurate and consistent grading as well as our inert holder, which was tested and is currently used by the Smithsonian Institution,” Salzberg continues. “The NGC holder is ideal for the long-term preservation of these beautiful coins.”

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United States

NGC Grading On-site at Whitman Expo

Posted on 3/11/2014

Stop by booth #1953 at the Whitman Baltimore Expo, March 27–28, to drop off your submissions for on-site grading and encapsulation.

NGC will offer on-site grading and encapsulation of US coins* at the Whitman Expo, in Baltimore, MD on **Thursday, March 27 to Friday, March 28, 2014 at 12:00 pm**. NGC will be at booth 1953. Please check with NGC Customer Service for submission cut-off times.

Please read below for complete details on the services offered during the show.

NGC will be offering NGC Details Grading for coins that exhibit detrimental surface conditions. This service is provided automatically and at no additional charge for all on-site grading submissions. Submitters can request to opt out of this service if they prefer to have such coins returned ungraded.

All coins certified or reholdered by NGC at shows receive the Scratch-Resistant EdgeView® Holder.

On-Site Services include :

Silver Dollar Tier	**$30 per coin**
Morgan and Peace Dollars valued at $500 and under (5-coin minimum). *Coins must be in flips.*	

Gold Special	**$50 per coin**
Gold coins valued at $3,000 and under (5-coin minimum).	

Value WalkThrough	**$65 per coin**
Coins valued at $1,500 and under.	

WalkThrough	**$100 per coin**
Coins valued from $1,501 to $100,000.	

Expedite WalkThrough	**$150 per coin**
Guaranteed four-hour turnaround, coins valued at $100,000 and under. *Coins are returned within four hours or regular show pricing applies.*	

High-Value WalkThrough	**$200 per coin**
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued from $100,001 to $500,000.	

Unlimited Value WalkThrough	**$500 per coin**
Four-hour turnaround, coins valued above $500,000.	

Show ReHolder	**$15 per coin**
A coin in a scratched, chipped or older-generation NGC holder is placed in a new Scratch-Resistant EdgeView Holder.	

NCS CrossOver	**$10 per coin**
A coin in an NCS holder is NGC Details Graded.	

Questions should be directed to NGC customer service at service@NGCcoin.com or 1-800-NGC-COIN (642-2646).

Most coins submitted for on-site grading are returned within 24 to 48 hours, except for expedited services, which are completed within four hours.

NGC Show Representatives will also be accepting submissions for all service levels to be sent to our office in Sarasota, FL. These include World services, Ancient Coin Services, Early Bird, Economy, Bulk, Special Designations, PHOTO PROOF® and more!

Special Note:

- Due to the special handling required, NGC does not accept submissions of the following coins at this show for regular service submissions to be returned to the NGC offices: Coins over 3.5" (90 mm) in diameter and .39" (10 mm) in depth, West Point 2-coin set, San Francisco 2-coin Proof set, Coin & Currency sets, 25th Anniversary Eagles, 20th Anniversary Eagles, Early Releases, American Liberty Series and 10th Anniversary Platinum Sets. These submissions must be sent directly to Sarasota, FL, by the submitter.

- The $5 CrossOver special does not apply for on-site grading.

Visit our table for answers to any questions about the services offered by NGC. Please remember that NGC does not provide opinions or free evaluations of coins at trade shows.

*Does not include 5-ounce coins.

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Submit Your Coins and Notes at the Hong Kong Coin Show

Posted on 3/13/2014

NGC, NCS and PMG will be accepting submissions at the Hong Kong Coin Show April 4–6.

NGC and PMG are the world's leading and largest third-party coin and paper money grading services, and NCS is the world's first professional coin conservation company. The three companies will be accepting submissions at the Hong Kong Coin Show, April 4–6 at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile. Stop by our booth to take advantage of these show specials:

- **Free evaluations** — Bring your coins and notes to the booth for free evaluations by David Camire, NCS president and NGC finalizer, and Bruce Thornton, PMG finalizer. Available 10:00–12:00 and 2:00-5:00.

- **Discounted grading fees** — NGC and PMG will offer a 20% discount off their regular Hong Kong grading fees for all submitters at the April show to celebrate the opening of their new Hong Kong office. These introductory rates will be available only during the show. All submissions after the show will pay regular grading fees.

- **Expedited grading special** — Submit to NGC or PMG at the show and grading will be completed within one week for coins and two weeks for paper money. (Turnaround does not include shipping time.)

- **Shipping & Insurance** — Roundtrip shipping and full insurance coverage is provided at no additional charge for all submissions to NGC, NCS and PMG in Hong Kong.

For information, contact Tru Tran, Hong Kong Regional Sales Manager:

Phone: +852 2115-3639
Email: TTran@NGCcoin.com
Website: www.NGCcoin.hk

NGC, NCS and PMG are independent members of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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United States

NGC Introduction to Grading Class at Central States

Posted on 3/5/2014

NGC will be offering its popular Introduction to Grading class at the Central States Convention. The class will be hosted on April 26, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Register today!

NGC will conduct an Introduction to Grading class on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Central States Convention in Schaumburg, Illinois. The cost to attend the class is $149 for paid NGC Collectors Society members and $199 for Free Collectors Society members and non-members (new attendees only) who register. Classroom space is provided courtesy of the Central States Numismatic Society.

Introduction to Grading will cover a variety of important grading topics including proper lighting, the subtleties of About Uncirculated versus Mint State, counterfeit detection, the differences between strike versus wear and the key attributes commonly considered to constitute positive eye appeal.

The class will be taught by NGC grader John Schuch, II. John joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 9 years, advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins. He has taught numerous grading classes at the American Numismatic Association's Summer Seminar.

The class is limited to 20 students and is available on a first-come basis. New attendees only. **Advance registration is required**.

John Schuch, II, NGC Grader

The son of a coin dealer, John grew up around coins. He started working summers for his father at the age of 15, bird-dogging coins for dealers. After high school, he worked full time for his father's business. At 20, John enlisted in the Army and

Paid NGC Collectors Society members click here to register.

Free Collectors Society members and non-members click here to register.

Enter code: grading426 and press the "Proceed" button. You will receive an email with payment instructions.

If the class is full, email class@ngccoin.com to be added to a Wait List. You will be contacted if space becomes available.

served for four years. After leaving the Army, he decided to pursue numismatics as his career. He joined NGC in 2004 and has worked as a grader for 9 years, rising up the ranks advancing his knowledge and passion for rare coins.

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NGC Registry News

Posted on 3/18/2014

2014 is off with a bang, already seeing lots of activity in the NGC Registry.

John Mercanti, the former US Mint Chief Engraver who designed the reverse of the popular American Silver Eagle coin, has created a new wedge-tailed eagle design for Australia's Perth Mint. This new eagle coin has a maximum mintage of 10,000 pieces. NGC has created two new NGC Registry sets for these coins:

- **Australia - Commemorative**
  Set Name: Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Silver Dollars, 2014 (One Ounce), Proof
- **Australia - Commemorative**
  Set Name: Wedge-Tailed Eagle, Gold $100 (One Ounce), Proof

We are working to create other exciting new sets for 2014, including the ones listed below. Check them out to see if there is a collecting option that interests you:

US Sets

- American Eagle and Buffalo Coins: Silver Eagles, 1986-Date, Bullion Issues
- American Eagle and Buffalo Coins: 2014 Eagles Set, Mint State
- American Eagle and Buffalo Coins: 2014 Eagles Set, Proof
- Proof Sets 1858-1891: 1879, with Gold Proof Set
- Proof Sets 1999-Date: 2014 Proof Set, Complete
- Proof Sets 1999-Date: 2014 Silver Proof Set
- Quarter Dollars: San Francisco Washington Quarters, 2012-Date, Circulation Issues
- Seated Liberty Dimes with the Top 100 Varieties – ***New***
- Tokens and Medals: So-Called Dollars, Wilson Dollars, 1920, Complete

World Sets

- Australia - Commemorative: Endangered and Extinct Series, Silver Dollars, 2011-Date (1 Ounce), Proof
- Canada - Commemorative: Gold 50 Cents, Commemorative Issues, 2004-Date, Complete Proof
- Canada: 50 Cents, Elizabeth II, 1953-1967, Specimen Issue
- China - Panda: 1991 Panda 10th Anniversary Set, Complete
- China - Lunar: Silver 5 Ounce 50Y, 1988-1999, Round, Proof
- China - Lunar: Gold 1/3 Ounce 50Y, 1998-2009, Proof
- China - Lunar: Gold 1/3 Ounce 150Y, Fan, 2012-Date, Proof
- China - Lunar: Gold 1/10 Ounce 10Y, 1998-2009, Proof
- China - Lunar: Gold 1/10 Ounce 10Y, 2010- Date, Proof
- China - Commemorative: Endangered Wildlife Series, 1986-1997, Complete
- Niue: Silver $2, 2009-Date, Proof
- Poland: Peoples Republic, 10 Zlotych, 1959-1990
- South Africa - Union: 1954 Proof Set
- South Africa - Union: 1955 Proof Set

Start your collection now and you could be a participant in the 2014 NGC Registry Awards. Just take a look at the categories that interest you and start your own collection. If you're not familiar with the NGC Registry take some time to explore it and see the many collecting options that are available.

We have been busy adding the 2014 slots to the new sets. Do you own a coin that still needs a slot in the Registry? If so, please shoot us an email, and let us know. We are happy to add it for you.

If you don't see the set categories that interest you, drop us a note and let us know. Reach us by e-mail at registry@NGCcoin.com.We look forward to seeing your coin collection in the 2014 NGC Registry competition.

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United States

NGC Ancients: The Weatherby Collection of Ancient Coins

Posted on 3/18/2014

This month, NGC Ancients examines an interesting collection assembled in the mid-20th century by a Southern doctor.

Recently, NGC Ancients graded 65 ancient coins from the “Weatherby Collection,” assembled between 1936 and 1962 by the prominent Southern doctor and avid collector, Jesse Howell (J.H.) Weatherby. First, a bit about this gentleman: born in 1903, he served his country with distinction as a commander in the US Naval Reserve during World War II and was a professor of pharmacology at the Medical College of Virginia from 1936 until his death in 1963. As a well-published researcher, he made noteworthy contributions in the fields of pharmacology, electro-physiology, chemical irritation, cell membranes, and anesthetics throughout his long career in medicine.

At about the time he came to Virginia to teach, Dr. Weatherby became interested in collecting coins, a passion that he would pursue until the end of his life. He assembled an interesting collection of several hundred ancient, world and US coins, many of which have been graded by NGC. Though he passed away more than fifty years ago, the doctor’s collection had remained intact in family safety deposit boxes until quite recently, when they were taken to Mebane Antique Auction Gallery of Mebane, N.C., an NGC dealer-member which then submitted them to NGC Ancients for identification, grading and encapsulation. They will be offered at auction on April 5, 2014 by Mebane Antique Auction Gallery; the sale can be accessed online at www.mebaneauction.com .

The Weatherby Collection is particularly interesting in that it shows what sorts of ancient coins one might expect to have acquired in the mid-South during the Great Depression, World War II, and the early postwar years. It contains examples of civic and imperial Greek coinage, a smattering of Jewish issues from the first century A.D., and Roman Republican, Imperial, and Provincial coinages.

A few of the highlights are examined below.

First is a silver denarius struck at a military mint traveling with the general Marc Antony as he prepared for war with Octavian in the years 32-31 B.C. Featuring a war galley on the obverse and legionary standards on the reverse, the Weatherby example of this popular and iconic type honors the ninth Legion of Antony's ill-fated army, which not long after this denarius was struck would be defeated at the Battle of Actium on September 2, 31 B.C.

Roman Imperatorial
Marc Antony d.30 BC
Click images to enlarge.

Another piece of note is a rare bronze sestertius of the emperor Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161). The reverse type is what makes this piece special – it commemorates Roman victories in Britain by showing the goddess of Victory accompanied by the inscription BRITAN. Debate still rages among historians whether this type alludes to a generic sense of 'victory' that the Romans had achieved in Britain in recent decades, or to the suppression of local uprisings that may have occurred there in the A.D. 150s.

Roman Empire
Antoninus Pius AD 138-161
Click images to enlarge.

A third highlight of the collection is a rare bronze centenionalis issued by the mysterious historical figure Poemenius (A.D. 353). He struck the piece at the mint of Trier, Germany on behalf of the legitimate emperor Constantius II (A.D. 337-361), whose administration was at that time based in the Eastern half of the empire. It features on its obverse a portrait – ostensibly that of Constantius II – and on its reverse a Chi-Rho symbol meant to appeal to Orthodox Catholics residing in the Western portion of the empire.

Roman Empire
Poemenius A.D. 353
Click images to enlarge.

Finally, the lone Byzantine coin in the collection is a gold solidus of the Emperor Justin II (A.D. 565-578). Not only has this coin survived in lustrous, Mint State

condition, but it is unusual in that it was stuck to the weight of 20-siliqua (whereas most Byzantine solidi were struck to the normal 24-siliqua weight). This piece features on its obverse a full-facing portrait of Justin II holding Victory, and the seated figure of the city-goddess Constantinopolis on the reverse.

Byzantine Empire
Justin II, AD 565-578
Click images to enlarge.

Interested in reading more articles on Ancient coins? Click here

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Counterfeit Detection: 1937-D 3-Legged Buffalo Nickel

Posted on 3/18/2014

Key diagnostics are lacking on a recently submitted counterfeit 1937-D 3-Legged Nickel.

The 1937-D 3-Legged Nickel is undoubtedly the most famous key date in the Buffalo Nickels series. Most collectors consider it to be a distinct issue although it is more accurately described as a late die state and not a variety. The leg was present when the dies were made but was ultimately removed as a result of overpolishing.

Specimens with the normal four legs reverse are quite common and affordable, but those with the three legs reverse trade for hundreds of dollars even in low circulated grades. In About Uncirculated, prices escalate to more than $1,000. While examples are available—NGC has graded nearly 6,000 pieces in all grades—there is significant demand from collectors.

Since the same pair of dies struck coins with both four legs and three legs there is an opportunity for nefarious individuals to carefully efface one of the legs and pass it off as the rare three legs variant. NGC graders identified one such instance in a recent submission.

Although there are no obvious tool marks around the leg on this coin, it is clear that the fields below the buffalo have been manipulated. The area around where the fourth leg should appear shows evidence of heavy polishing, however, while the rest of the fields do not.

Click image to enlarge.

Besides that red flag, this piece is also lacking two key diagnostics seen on genuine examples. On all legitimate 1937-D 3-Legged Nickels there is significant die erosion at the back of the Indian's neck, which looks "moth eaten."

Click image to enlarge.

The second diagnostic is the line of tiny raised die lumps below the center of the buffalo, appearing almost as if it were urinating. These die lumps may not be visible on low grade specimens so their presence is not a requirement when authenticating.

Click image to enlarge.

This coin lacks both of these diagnostics and with the altered fields in the lower reverse it can be quickly condemned as illegitimate. Virtually all spurious 1937-D 3-Legged Nickels are altered as opposed to outright counterfeits since it is fairly easy to tool away the leg. Nonetheless, these altered pieces are usually quite obvious and quickly identified.

Interested in reading more articles on Counterfeit Detection? Click here.

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USA Coin Album: More Scrapbook Gold

Posted on 3/18/2014

Several months ago, I combed through the series of scrapbooks I've been assembling for the past 30+ years to find forgotten gems of numismatic ephemera. I'm revisiting those scrapbooks this month to find even more numismatic nuggets.

My first bit of forgotten numismatic lore is literally from the scrapbook—Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine. This publication ran from 1935 to 1976 before being absorbed into Coin World, and it included a wealth of solid numismatic information, as well as nostalgic trivia. In addition to NGC's bound set in my office, I have my own unbound collection at home that's handy for scanning ads and articles.

In 1969 collectors were delighted to be able to purchase partially defaced US Mint dies that had been used for the 1968-S proof coinage. These were sold as scrap metal after having their faces almost completed destroyed with a welding torch, yet I own and have seen a number of dies that retained distinct bits of the legends or partial dates. Some 4,000 such dies were disposed of legally by the General Services Administration (GSA), the same agency that sold the Treasury's hoard of vintage silver dollars in the 1970s.

This harvest of dies was purchased from a local scrap dealer by Wayne Pratali and David Silverman, who operated a coin shop called Little Mint of San Francisco located in that city. All five denominations of 1968-S proof dies were available, both obverses and reverses. In the February 1969 issue of NSM, a complete set of five was offered at $50, though the ad didn't specify whether one would receive obverse or reverse dies. These dies were commonplace during the

1970s, and I purchased my first one, a quarter dollar obverse, from Jim Halperin's New England Rare Coins. It came with a plaque into which was embedded a 1968-S proof quarter, and this was accompanied by a metal plate relating how the dies were legally discarded. I've since acquired from other sources a nickel obverse, as well as a complete trio of half dollar obverse, reverse and collar. This last piece is the rarest of the bunch, and the three together make excellent teaching tools.

What made for a newsworthy story, however, is that one of the dies sold by the GSA as scrap was not defaced. Though it was for a 1967 Philippine coin series struck at the San Francisco Assay Office (as it was called at that time), this still concerned the US Mint when informed of its existence in private hands by a writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. The article in NSM included a Chronicle photo of the die. Regarding the entire episode, US Mint Deputy Director Frederick Tate stated, "We've been disposing of dies in this same way for years. This is the first time we've run into this sort of resale promotion." My colleague at NGC, David Camire, collects used dies, collars and other Mint relics, so I asked him if he knew about this uncancelled Philippine die, whereupon he went into his office and produced the very item in question!

This episode may have ended the Mint's practice of selling dies as scrap metal for some time, because I've never heard of dies from later years being offered in the marketplace until the US Mint itself sought to profit from collector interest. With the great variety of coin designs issued for the Atlanta Olympiad in 1996, the Mint sold partially defaced dies directly to customers on its mailing list. Instead of being nearly obliterated with a blow torch, these dies had simple cross cancellations. While this may have seemed alarming to some, the Mint evidently felt that because the dies were for non-circulating coins they posed little threat. Mint error collectors, however, pointed out that each unmolested quadrant of the die face provided an opportunity to create fake off-center strikes. I've not heard of any such coins surfacing, but it's significant that the Mint did not repeat this promotion after that time. Though used dies are

still offered by the Mint, these are always fully defaced.

My next nugget comes from the September 4, 2001 issue of Numismatic News. The hobby still mourns the recent passing of longtime columnist Alan Herbert, and in his Coin Clinic entry of that date he addressed a reader question about how our current clad coinage is made. He recounted his interview with a “top Mint official” in which it was revealed that the first year or two of clad coinage utilized planchet strip that was explosive bonded. In this process, a thin layer of explosive chemical was detonated to drive the three layer of clad strip together. In 1967 this technique, which was used in many industries, was abandoned as being too expensive for coinage.

Instead, the Mint experimented with pressure bonding, in which the two outer layers of copper-nickel were compressed onto the pure copper center strip. A “bonding process line” was incorporated into the new Philadelphia Mint then under construction. This was done at great expense, yet the Mint ultimately determined that it was more cost effective to purchase clad strip from outside vendors that was already formed and ready for planchet punching. This practice of outsourcing strip supplies remains in effect to the present day.

David W. Lange's column, “USA Coin Album,” appears monthly in the Numismatist, *the official publication of the American Numismatic Association.*

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Chinese Coins: The Panda Maker

Posted by Peter Anthony on 3/18/2014

Peter Anthony discusses designing the Chinese Panda coins with artist Rocky Zhao.

It was near the end of a tour of the Shanghai Mint Museum in 2011 that I met Rocky Zhao. He was dressed in one of his trademark collarless dark blue Nehru-style coats and made an immediate impression on me as a friendly, and thoughtful person. He is also a very fine artist who designed the 2011 Pandas. I remember that Rocky was curious to meet the American writer of a book about Chinese coins. We quickly decided that we liked each other and the discussion about coins, art and Chinese culture flowed.

Since that meeting there have been many more conversations between us, some in China and some in America. At the 2013 ANA Convention in Chicago I found Rocky carefully studying the exhibits of great coins through the ages. He looked up and said, “These coins inspire me.”

The inspiration shows. Rocky is also the artist who designed the 2013 Shanghai Memories medals. These beautiful gold and silver medals commemorate the shelter and aid that China and its people gave to mostly Jewish refugees during World War II. In 2012, to gain a better understanding of that history I joined Rocky and Danny Spungen, the true father of these medals, on a walking tour of the old Shanghai ghetto. Between the twin brutalities of the Japanese and Nazi occupations it was a dark period for humanity. The tolerance of the Shanghainese stands out as an example of how the future could be brighter. Rocky felt this keenly and expressed both the fear and the hope in his medal design.

The 2014 Pandas are another of Rocky’s accomplishments. In an interview he offered some insights into how one of the world’s favorite coins is created.

P.A. How do you decide on the pose of the Panda?

R.Z. I used photos and drawings of the actual animals. I went to the zoo to watch Pandas. In this I followed in the footsteps of my master, Mr. Chen Jian, who in 1983 went to the zoo to draw pandas from life. Pandas are very lucky, peaceful animals. They are gentle, not fierce like an eagle. So I looked for a pose that conveys this characteristic.

Coin designing is a three-step process. The drawing is the first step. The engraving is the second step. The third step is the modeling. There is a competition between artists at each Mint including Shanghai, Shenyang, Shenzhen Guobao and Nanjing. After the Mints choose their artist there is a competition between Mints that takes place in Beijing. The winning drawing is chosen by a committee. There is also a competition to choose the engraver who is also very important. The engraver creates the relief and determines the reflective and frosted areas of the coin.

P.A. In 2012 the coin had two Pandas. In 2013 there were three Pandas. So many people expected that 2014 would have four Pandas (laughter).

R.Z. The room is too limited on a 1 oz. Panda to have so many Pandas.

P.A. What is your view for the future of Panda coins?

R.Z. I think that Pandas are very peaceful and they represent the people of China's wish for peace. So Panda coins should also be ambassadors of peace – this is my dream. Yes, I also hope that the success of the Panda series will help support efforts to protect the animals and the environment.

Peter Anthony is an expert on Chinese modern coins with a particular focus on Panda coins. He is an analyst for the NGC Chinese Modern Coin Price Guide as well as a consultant on Chinese modern coins.

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United States

Conservation Showcase: South Africa 1959 1 Shilling Proof

Posted on 3/18/2014

Conservation work revealed surfaces with little damage in spite of built-up residue.

When coins are stored in such a manner to be exposed to the air and immediate environment residues will assuredly form. These residues, when combined with the correct moisture and other chemicals from the environment can cause the beginnings of corrosion to appear on the surface of a coin.

BEFORE CONSERVATION

click to enlarge *click to enlarge*

AFTER CONSERVATION

click to enlarge *click to enlarge*

With the hope of removing the yellowing residues from the surface of the 1959 proof South Africa 1 Shilling and prevent any future damage, this coin arrived at NCS. Original surfaces were peaking through the residue on this coin in several small titilating spots. Conservation work was able to remove the yellow residue from the surface of this coin revealing surfaces that have been affected very little by the damaging aspects of such residue.

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United States

From the NGC Archives: 1807 Draped Bust Dime

Posted on 3/18/2014

1807 marked the final year of production for Robert Scot's Draped Bust Dime. In fact, this Liberty portrait was retired for all denominations that year, with the exception of the lowly half-cent.

It alone bore this familiar bust into 1808. At 165,000 pieces, the 1807 dime realized the highest mintage of its type, though most surviving mint state examples are of disappointing quality.

An absolutely amazing coin, this wonderful dime is possessed of extraordinary eye appeal. All the more remarkable is that this specimen is of an issue which is notorious for being poorly struck. Though weak around its peripheries, this beautiful dime is otherwise quite sharp. Pedigreed to the famous John Jay Pittman Collection, it was described by cataloger David W. Akers as nearly pristine and as struck, except for the addition of absolutely gorgeous blue and greenish-gold toning.

Are you interested in learning more about these coins? Click here to visit the NGC Coin Explorer and read on.

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United States

Catalog Available for Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction

Posted on 2/27/2014

The 56th Baldwin's Hong Kong Coin Auction includes Far Eastern coins, world coins, medals and bank notes.

[LONDON, UK] — As dredgers scour the seabeds of Tangasseri harbor in Kollam city, Kerala, India, in the hunt to discover more Chinese coins' London based auctioneers, A. H. Baldwin & Sons Ltd, give buyers as easier way to buy a piece of Chinese monetary history at their 56th Hong Kong Coin Auction of Far Eastern and World Coins, Medals and Banknotes, in association with Ma Tak Wo Munismatic Co Ltd, Hong Kong.

NGC Highlights Include:

- Lot 309 - COINS, CHINA - PROVINCIAL ISSUES Chihli Province: Silver Pattern Tael, Kuang Hsu, Year 33 (1907), Rev three dots in straight line on pearl (Kann 938a; L&M 438; KM Y74). In NGC holder graded MS 61, very rare. ex Dr Norman Jacobs Collection, Baldwin's – Ma Tak Wo, Hong Kong Coin Auction 44, 27 August 2008, lot 114 from the Åke Lindén Collection. Estimate: US$80,000-100,000.
- Lot 331 - COINS, CHINA - PROVINCIAL ISSUES Manchurian Provinces: Silver 50-Cents, Year 33 (1907) (L&M 488; KM Y211). In NGC holder graded MS 64. Estimate: US$4,500-5,500.
- Lot 458 - COINS, CHINA - PROVINCIAL ISSUES Sinkiang Province, Islamic Republic of Eastern Turkestan: Silver Mace, AH1352 (1933-34), Rev nine-rayed sun (KM Y E39; L&M 774). In NGC holder graded AU 55, rare. Estimate: US$5,000-6,000.
- Lot 612 - COINS, CHINA - COMMUNIST ISSUES Kiangsi Soviet: Silver 20-Cents, 1932, Obv Chinese legend and date, Rev crossed hammer and sickle on Globe between ears of grain (L&M 894; KM Y508). In NGC holder graded MS 63, rare date. Estimate: US $4,000-4,500.

- Lot 621 - COINS, CHINA - PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC People's Republic: Silver Proof 10-Yuan, 1985, Year of the Ox (KM 119). In NGC holder graded PF 69 ULTRA CAMEO. Estimate: US$800-1,000
- Lot 710 - COINS, CHINA - MEDALS Nye Sze-Chung: Silver Medal, Year 9 (1920), Obv ¾-facing military bust, date below, (Kann pl 189; L&M 954). In NGC holder graded MS 64 Estimate: US$3,000-4,000.
- Lot 710 - COINS, CHINA - MEDALS Nye Sze-Chung: Silver Medal, Year 9 (1920), Obv ¾-facing military bust, date below, (Kann pl 189; L&M 954). In NGC holder graded MS 64. Estimate: US$3,000-4,000.
- Lot 884 - COINS, JAPAN Mutsuhito: Silver Trade Dollar, Meiji 9 (1876) (KM Y14; JNDA 01-12). In NGC holder graded MS 61. Estimate: US$2,000-2,500.
- Lot 928 - COINS, REST OF THE WORLD, Mexico: Silver 8-Reales, 1814/3MoHJ (KM 111). In NGC holder certified "FINE DETAILS REPAIRED", fine with some repairs, rare. Estimate: US$1,000-1,200.

The auction will be held in the Crystal Conference Centre at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile in Kowloon Hong Kong on Thursday, April 3. Click here to view the auction catalog at www.baldwin.co.uk.

This is a guest article. The thoughts and opinions in the piece are those of their author and are not necessarily the thoughts of the Certified Collectibles Group.

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Stack's Bowers Unveils Great American Coin Hoard

Posted on 3/10/2014

The collection of more than 1 million coins will be an ongoing part of upcoming Stack's Bowers Galleries auctions. Initial estimates value the coins at $15–20 million.

[IRVINE, Calif. March 10, 2014] — One of the greatest American coin hoards ever to be found has been acquired by Stack’s Bowers Galleries.

The hoard, which contains over a million coins, ranges from bags of large copper cents and Capped Bust half dollars, to Morgan and other silver dollars. Other coins include Washington quarters, Franklin half dollars, bags of Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents, nearly 10,000 1909 V.D.B cents, and more. Most are in circulated grades, and will appeal to collectors seeking coins that are both historical and affordable. The market value is estimated to be well into eight figures, with initial estimates ranging from $15 to $20 million.

Designated as The Stack’s West 57th Street Collection, the coins were obtained in New York City and around the country, then stashed away and never reviewed for key dates or attributed by varieties. Armed guards kept watch as the 30-ton hoard was unloaded from two large transport trucks and transferred into secured vaults. The sorting process has now just begun, and announcements of collection highlights will be made in the upcoming months as the hoard is examined.

“Going through samples from this collection has been amazing,” said Lawrence R. Stack, a founder of Stack’s Bowers Galleries. “Each of the thousands of groupings has remained sealed as originally closed by the owner. We expect to find many rare varieties and discoveries as the review process continues. I have never seen anything like it, and am unaware of any comparable hoard of copper, nickel and silver coins that has ever come to the numismatic market. This will have a profound effect on new collectors coming into the hobby, for the vast majority of the coins will be very affordable — quite a change from the usual business of handling rarities.”

“The collection will be an ongoing part of our auction program over the next few years,” said Brian Kendrella, president of Stack’s Bowers Galleries. “Coins will initially be offered in our Internet auctions beginning in April. Rarities, new discoveries, higher-value coins, and the like, will be included in regular auction programs, including our Official Auctions of the Whitman Coin and Collectibles Expos, our ANA World’s Fair of Money Showcase and Rarities Night auctions, and other venues. There will certainly be something for everyone, and I expect the discovery will be exciting for all individuals involved in numismatics.”

“After learning advanced news of this, I began thinking, perhaps it is time for a new edition of my American Coin Hoards and Treasures book,” said Q. David Bowers, chairman emeritus of Stack’s Bowers Galleries. “This hoard is one of the greatest finds since the book was published in the 1990s, and it’s quite different from most others in that it contains tons of what used to be pocket change but is now, in every instance, a collectible.”

For complete auction schedules, and additional information on The Stack’s West 57th Street Collection as it becomes available, visit the company’s website at StacksBowers.com.

About Stack’s Bowers Galleries

Stack's Bowers Galleries conducts live, Internet and specialized auctions of rare U.S. and world coins and currency and ancient coins, as well as direct sales through retail and wholesale channels. The company's 80-year legacy includes the cataloging and sale of many of the most valuable United States coin and currency collections to ever cross an auction block — The John J. Ford, Jr. Collection, The Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection, The Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, The Norweb Collection, The Cardinal Collection and The Battle Born Collection — to name just a few. World coin and currency collections include The Louis E. Eliasberg, Sr. Collection of World Gold Coins, The Kroisos Collection, The Alicia and Sidney Belzberg Collection, The Wa She Wong Collection, The Guia Collection, The Thos. H. Law Collection, and The Robert O. Ebert Collection.

Topping off this amazing numismatic history is the inclusion of the world record for the highest price ever realized at auction for a rare coin, the 1794 Flowing Hair Silver Dollar graded Specimen-66 that realized over $10 million, part of their sale of the famed Cardinal Collection. The company is headquartered in Irvine, California, with offices in New York, Wolfeboro, Hong Kong, and Paris. Stack's Bowers Galleries is an Official Auctioneer for several important numismatic conventions, including American Numismatic Association events, the New York International Numismatic Convention, the Professional Numismatists Guild New York Invitational, the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Spring, Summer and Winter Expos, and our April and August Hong Kong Auctions.

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Save $50 per Session at ANA Summer Seminar

Posted by ANA on 3/18/2014

The 46th annual educational event features a new schedule and the return of Denver Mint tours. Plus, save $50 per session when you register and pay by March 31!

[COLORADO SPRINGS, CO] – Members of the American Numismatic Association have a chance to save $50 per session when they register and pay tuition and campus fees by March 31 for Summer Seminar, the ANA's premier educational event in numismatics, to be held June 21-26 and June 28-July 3, 2014.

"Enrollment is limited, so signing up early not only saves you money, it guarantees a space in the class of your choice," said Susan McMillan, education project manager.

The 46th annual Summer Seminar also features a revised schedule with a Saturday-Wednesday format for classes and events. This allows the ANA to once again offer a tour to the Denver Mint.

"When the U.S. Mint in Denver adopted a 4-day work week, we could no longer offer the Friday tour to the Mint," McMillan explained. "With the new streamlined schedule, we can once again offer tours — this year on Thursday."

The new format also means Session 2 students and instructors will depart on July 3, allowing attendees to spend Independence Day with family and friends.

Classroom hours will be Sunday through Wednesday, 9-11:45 a.m. and 1:15-4 p.m. Opening ceremonies will be conducted at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 21 and Saturday, June 28. A schedule at a glance can be found at www.Money.org/SummerSeminar.

The Dwight N. Manley Numismatic Library will conduct its annual book sale and be open special hours during Summer Seminar. Additionally, the Colorado Springs Coin Show will be held between Sessions 1 and 2 at the nearby Freedom Financial Services Center in Colorado Springs, June 26-29. Shuttle transportation is provided to Summer Seminar students.

Course catalogs and the registration form are available for download at www.Money.org/SummerSeminar. Members can also register by contacting Education Assistant Amber Bradish at 719-482-9865 or mailto:abradish@money.org.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging people to study and collect money and related items. The ANA helps its 26,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of education and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, conventions and seminars. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or go to www.money.org .

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